

Litigation Section *News*

Litigation Section of the State Bar of California

March 2008

Members of the Litigation Section,

Litigation Section News will get you up to speed on all of the valuable services that the Litigation Section is providing to you, our members. Future issues of the newsletter will provide additional information on new programs, events, and activities of your Litigation Section.

We have many outstanding publications and programs for our membership. We also have many subcommittees that are doing great work, and if you so choose you can easily get involved in any of them and join with your colleagues in the work of the Section.

Publications

The Litigation Section offers three outstanding publications, free of charge to all members of the Litigation Section.

California Litigation magazine, published three times each year, presents in-depth articles and commentary by prominent members of the California legal community. The next issue will be sent to all Section members in March, and will feature informative articles on class action law, including the enforceability of class action waivers; how to pick class representatives; managing class action data; and how to structure class-action settlements.

California Litigation Review is an annual publication provided to all Section members both in hard copy and on-line via the Litigation Section website. California Litigation Review provides an overview of legislation and appellate decisions of the past year that are of interest to California litigators. This year's issue will be sent to Section members later this spring.

Litigation Update is a monthly electronic newsletter that is e-mailed to all Litigation Section members. It provides timely information on recent appellate decisions and other relevant issues.

Events and Live Programs

Best Practices for Winning at Litigation and Trial.

The Litigation Section will hold a Best Practices Program

on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. Experienced judges, trial attorneys, and litigators will be featured in panel discussions on vital litigation topics. More information and a copy of the program brochure can be found at the Litigation Section website at www.calbar.ca.gov/litigation. A Best Practices Program will also be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 in Fresno.

A Week in Legal London / Oxford University Summer Program.

A Week in Legal London is your backstage pass to the courts of London. Attend sessions at the Royal Courts of Justice, the Old Bailey, the Magistrates and Crown courts. Join leading London judges, barristers and solicitors in their chambers and at their dining tables. The Oxford program, at Magdalen College, Oxford University, covers both law and history, with intriguing insights for attorneys as well as non-attorneys. Attend either the London or Oxford program or both. MCLE Credit is offered. Participation in A Week in Legal London is limited to sixty. Participation in the Oxford program is limited to thirty-five. For more information, visit www.aweekinlegallondon.com.

Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame. 2008 will mark the 15th year in which the Litigation Section has inducted outstanding California trial attorneys into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame at a special award dinner. The Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame honor is presented to trial attorneys who have excelled in the courtroom and whose careers exemplify the highest of values and professional achievement. In 2007, distinguished trial lawyer Harvey R. Levine became a member of the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame at a dinner held in San Diego. The 2008 Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame inductee will be announced in the coming weeks, along with the date and location of the award dinner.

Bench/Bar Brown Bag luncheons are sponsored by the Litigation Section, and offer opportunities for interested members of the bar to meet California judges in an informal, small group setting. Watch your e-mail box for information on upcoming Bench/Bar luncheons.

Subcommittees

The Litigation Section's subcommittees carry out the work of the Section and provide valuable services to our members and the legal community. If you would like to be a part of any of these subcommittees, please contact the Litigation Section's Administrator, Tom Pye, at Thomas.Pye@calbar.ca.gov, and please indicate which subcommittee interests you.

The Litigation Section's current subcommittees are:

Alternative Dispute Resolution Subcommittee —

Reviews legislation and proposed rule changes regarding all forms of ADR.

Best Practices Program Subcommittee —

Organizes the Section's Best Practices Programs.

Education Program Subcommittee — Organizes programs to be presented at the State Bar of California Annual Meeting and the Section Education Institute.

Insurance and In-House Counsel Subcommittee — Works on issues of importance to California litigators who work in the insurance industry and/or as in-house counsel.

Jury Instruction Subcommittee — Provides comments on Judicial Council's Civil Jury Instructions ("CACI").

A Week in Legal London Subcommittee

— Organizes the Week in Legal London and Oxford University Summer Program.

Law Suits Program Subcommittee — Organizes program that collects donated used suits for men and women transitioning to self-sufficiency.

Outreach Subcommittee — Organizes Bench-Bar Programs and other events to assist members and works to diversify and increase Litigation Section membership.

Rules and Legislation Subcommittee — Reviews and recommends positions to be taken on behalf of the Section regarding rules and legislation that affect litigation.

Technology Subcommittee — Works on technology issues of importance to California litigators, including the advancement of electronic filing in California state courts.

Other Member Benefits

- In November 2007, the Litigation Section sent a DVD to all Section members, "Winning at Mediation Without Stubbing Your Toe: Ethics In Mediation," a videotape of a program presented at the Section's 2006 Trial Symposium in Napa. This informative program offers 1.0 hour of MCLE credit in ethics.
- In 2008, the Section will be distributing to its members a program intended to help litigators prepare clients for their deposition, including discussion of recommended ways for a witness to approach a deposition and the pitfalls of common mistakes that deposition witnesses make.
- Later this year, the Section will send another MCLE program on DVD to all Section members. This year's DVD program will feature Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame member e. bob wallach discussing effective methods of cross-examining witnesses at trial.

All of these benefits, like the Litigation Section's publications, are provided at no additional charge to members of the Section.

We hope that you enjoy our newsletter and the many benefits of Litigation Section membership.

Please pass this newsletter on to any colleagues who may be interested in joining the Litigation Section, and let them know that they can join the Litigation Section, and take advantage of all of these great benefits, by visiting the Litigation Section website at www.calbar.ca.gov/litigation and clicking on the "Join" link.